

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCI-02

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P 121510Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NIAMEY, INFO BAMAKA, FORT LAMY, GENEVA,
NOUAKCHOTT, OUAGADOUGOU, AUGUST 31, FROM SECSTATE RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 174441

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TPHY, NG

SUBJ: WEATHER MODIFICATION

REF: NIAMEY 2696 AND 2714

1, BOLLAY ACCOMPANIED BY NOAA AND DEPARTMENT OFFICERS,
CALLED AT NIGER EMBASSY AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 31 TO DISCUSS
HIRING OF PRIVATE METEOROLOGICAL CONTRACTOR TO CONDUCT
SEEDING OPERATIONS NIGER. BOLLAY GAVE AMBASSADOR NAMES
OF AMERICAN CONTRACTORS LISTED BY AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL
SOCIETY. BOLLAY, AT AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST, AGREED TO CALL
ALL COMPANIES WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO URGE THEM TO
SUBMIT BIDS DIRECTLY TO NIGER EMBASSY FOR CONDUCT
OPERATIONS NIGER. BOLLAY ALSO STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT
GON HIRE METEOROLOGICAL CONSULTANT TO HELP GON IN
SELECTION OF METEOROLOGIST AND TO SUPERVISE CONDUCT OF
OPERATIONS. AMBASSADOR AT FIRST SOMEWHAT RELUCANT TO
ACCEPT SUGGESTION OF CONSULTANT, EXPRESSING HOPE BOLLAY
WOULD ASSUME THAT ROLE, BUT AGREED IN THE END THAT HIRING
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OF PRIVATE CONTRACTOR MIGHT BE BEST MEANS OF PROTECTING HIS

COUNTRY'S INTEREST. BOLLAY NOW BELIEVES HE HAS SUITABLE CANDIDATE AS CONSULTANT AND WILL MEET WITH HIM OVER WEEKEND TO DISCUSS PROBLEM.

2. WE FULLY APPRECIATE GON'S SENSE OF URGENCY. HOWEVER, IT IMPORTANT GON UNDERSTAND USG REPRESENTATIVE CANNOT RECOMMEND CONTRACTOR OR IN ANY WAY SUPERVISE CLOUD SEEDING OPERATIONS. HENCE OUR STRONG RECOMMENDATION GON HIRE CONSULTANT TO PERFORM THESE FUNCTIONS. SUGGEST EMBASSY EXPRESS TO GON OUR VIEW THAT HIRING CONSULTANT WOULD BE VERY MUCH IN ITS INTEREST.

3. EMBASSY OFFICER EMPHASIZED THAT USG COULD TAKE NO POSITION ON QUALIFICATIONS OF POSSIBLE CONTRACTORS TO MEET NIGER NEEDS NOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF CONTRACTORS. ROGERS UNQUOTE. RUSH

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